

BushSpeech

	A
1	Mr. Chairman, delegates, and my fellow citizens ... I accept your nomination. Thank you for this honor. Together, we will renew America's purpose.
2	Our founders first defined that purpose here in Philadelphia ... Ben Franklin was here. Thomas Jefferson. And, of course, George Washington -- or, as his friends called him, "George W."
3	I am proud to have Dick Cheney at my side. He is a man of integrity and sound judgment, who has proven that public service can be noble service. America will be proud to have a leader of such character to
4	I am grateful for John McCain and the other candidates who sought this nomination. Their convictions
5	I am especially grateful tonight to my family.
6	No matter what else I do in life, asking Laura to marry me was the best decision I ever made.
7	To our daughters, Barbara and Jenna, we love you, we're proud of you, and as you head off to college this fall Don't stay out too late, and e-mail your old dad once in a while, will you?
8	And mother, everyone loves you and so do I.
9	Growing up, she gave me love and lots of advice. I gave her white hair. And I want to thank my father -- the most decent man I have ever known. All my life I have been amazed that a gentle soul could be so
10	My father was the last president of a great generation. A generation of Americans who stormed beaches, liberated concentration camps and delivered us from evil.
11	Some never came home.
12	Those who did put their medals in drawers, went to work, and built on a heroic scale ... highways and universities, suburbs and factories, great cities and grand alliances -- the strong foundations of an
13	Now the question comes to the sons and daughters of this achievement...
14	What is asked of us?
15	This is a remarkable moment in the life of our nation. Never has the promise of prosperity been so vivid. But times of plenty, like times of crisis, are tests of American character.
16	Prosperity can be a tool in our hands -- used to build and better our country. Or it can be a drug in our system -- dulling our sense of urgency, of empathy, of duty.
17	Our opportunities are too great, our lives too short, to waste this moment.
18	So tonight we vow to our nation ...
19	We will seize this moment of American promise.
20	We will use these good times for great goals.
21	We will confront the hard issues -- threats to our national security, threats to our health and retirement security -- before the challenges of our time become crises for our children.
22	And we will extend the promise of prosperity to every forgotten corner of this country.
23	To every man and woman, a chance to succeed. To every child, a chance to learn. To every family, a
24	For eight years, the Clinton/Gore administration has coasted through prosperity.
25	And the path of least resistance is always downhill.
26	But America's way is the rising road.
27	This nation is daring and decent and ready for change.
28	Our current president embodied the potential of a generation. So many talents. So much charm. Such great skill. But, in the end, to what end? So much promise, to no great purpose.
29	Little more than a decade ago, the Cold War thawed and, with the leadership of Presidents Reagan and
30	But instead of seizing this moment, the Clinton/Gore administration has squandered it. We have seen a steady erosion of American power and an unsteady exercise of American influence.
31	Our military is low on parts, pay and morale.

BushSpeech

A	
32	If called on by the commander-in-chief today, two entire divisions of the Army would have to report ... Not
33	This administration had its moment.
34	They had their chance. They have not led. We will.
35	This generation was given the gift of the best education in American history. Yet we do not share that gift with everyone. Seven of ten fourth-graders in our highest poverty schools cannot read a simple children's
36	And still this administration continues on the same old path with the same old programs -- while millions are trapped in schools where violence is common and learning is rare.
37	This administration had its chance. They have not led. We will.
38	America has a strong economy and a surplus. We have the public resources and the public will -- even the bipartisan opportunities -- to strengthen Social Security and repair Medicare.
39	But this administration -- during eight years of increasing need -- did nothing.
40	They had their moment. They have not led. We will.
41	Our generation has a chance to reclaim some essential values -- to show we have grown up before we
42	But when the moment for leadership came, this administration did not teach our children, it disillusioned
43	They had their chance. They have not led. We will.
44	And now they come asking for another chance, another shot.
45	Our answer?
46	Not this time.
47	Not this year.
48	This is not a time for third chances, it is a time for new beginnings. The rising generations of this country have our own appointment with greatness.
49	It does not rise or fall with the stock market. It cannot be bought with our wealth.
50	Greatness is found when American character and American courage overcome American challenges.
51	When Lewis Morris of New York was about to sign the Declaration of Independence, his brother advised against it, warning he would lose all his property.
52	Morris, a plain-spoken Founder, responded ... "Damn the consequences, give me the pen." That is the
53	We heard it during World War II, when General Eisenhower told paratroopers on D-Day morning not to worry -- and one replied, "We're not worried, General ... It's Hitler's turn to worry now."
54	We heard it in the civil rights movement, when brave men and women did not say ... "We shall cope," or "We shall see." They said ... "We shall overcome."
55	An American president must call upon that character.
56	Tonight, in this hall, we resolve to be, not the party of repose, but the party of reform.
57	We will write, not footnotes, but chapters in the American story.
58	We will add the work of our hands to the inheritance of our fathers and mothers -- and leave this nation
59	We know the tests of leadership. The issues are joined.
60	We will strengthen Social Security and Medicare for the greatest generation, and for generations to come.
61	Medicare does more than meet the needs of our elderly, it reflects the values of our society.
62	We will set it on firm financial ground, and make prescription drugs available and affordable for every
63	Social Security has been called the "third rail of American politics" -- the one you're not supposed to touch
64	But, if you don't touch it, you can't fix it. And I intend to fix it.
65	To seniors in this country ... You earned your benefits, you made your plans, and President George W. Bush will keep the promise of Social Security ... no changes, no reductions, no way.
66	Our opponents will say otherwise. This is their last, parting ploy, and don't believe a word of it.

BushSpeech

	A
67	Now is the time for Republicans and Democrats to end the politics of fear and save Social Security,
68	For younger workers, we will give you the option -- your choice -- to put a part of your payroll taxes into
69	This will mean a higher return on your money, and, over 30 or 40 years, a nest egg to help your
70	When this money is in your name, in your account, it's not just a program, it's your property.
71	Now is the time to give American workers security and independence that no politician can ever take
72	On education ... Too many American children are segregated into schools without standards, shuffled from grade-to-grade because of their age, regardless of their knowledge.
73	This is discrimination, pure and simple -- the soft bigotry of low expectations.
74	And our nation should treat it like other forms of discrimination ... We should end it.
75	One size does not fit all when it comes to educating our children, so local people should control local
76	And those who spend your tax dollars must be held accountable.
77	When a school district receives federal funds to teach poor children, we expect them to learn. And if they don't, parents should get the money to make a different choice.
78	Now is the time to make Head Start an early learning program, teach all our children to read, and renew the promise of America's public schools. Another test of leadership is tax relief.
79	The last time taxes were this high as a percentage of our economy, there was a good reason ... We were
80	Today, our high taxes fund a surplus. Some say that growing federal surplus means Washington has more
81	But they've got it backwards.
82	The surplus is not the government's money. The surplus is the people's money.
83	I will use this moment of opportunity to bring common sense and fairness to the tax code.
84	And I will act on principle.
85	On principle ... every family, every farmer and small businessperson, should be free to pass on their life's
86	So we will abolish the death tax.
87	On principle ... no one in America should have to pay more than a third of their income to the federal
88	So we will reduce tax rates for everyone, in every bracket.
89	On principle ... those in the greatest need should receive the greatest help.
90	So we will lower the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and double the child tax credit.
91	Now is the time to reform the tax code and share some of the surplus with the people who pay the bills.
92	The world needs America's strength and leadership, and America's armed forces need better equipment,
93	We will give our military the means to keep the peace, and we will give it one thing more ... a commander-in-chief who respects our men and women in uniform, and a commander-in-chief who earns their respect.
94	A generation shaped by Vietnam must remember the lessons of Vietnam.
95	When America uses force in the world, the cause must be just, the goal must be clear, and the victory
96	I will work to reduce nuclear weapons and nuclear tension in the world -- to turn these years of influence
97	And, at the earliest possible date, my administration will deploy missile defenses to guard against attack
98	Now is the time, not to defend outdated treaties, but to defend the American people.
99	A time of prosperity is a test of vision. And our nation today needs vision. That is a fact ... or as my opponent might call it, a "risky truth scheme." Every one of the proposals I've talked about tonight, he has
100	It is the sum of his message -- the politics of the roadblock, the philosophy of the stop sign.
101	If my opponent had been there at the moon launch, it would have been a "risky rocket scheme."
102	If he'd been there when Edison was testing the light bulb, it would have been a "risky anti-candle scheme."
103	And if he'd been there when the Internet was invented well ... I understand he actually was there for that.
104	He now leads the party of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. But the only thing he has to offer is fear itself.

BushSpeech

A	
105	That outlook is typical of many in Washington -- always seeing the tunnel at the end of the light.
106	But I come from a different place, and it has made me a different leader. In Midland, Texas, where I grew up, the town motto was "the sky is the limit" ... and we believed it.
107	There was a restless energy, a basic conviction that, with hard work, anybody could succeed, and
108	Our sense of community was just as strong as that sense of promise.
109	Neighbors helped each other. There were dry wells and sandstorms to keep you humble, and lifelong friends to take your side, and churches to remind us that every soul is equal in value and equal in need.
110	This background leaves more than an accent, it leaves an outlook.
111	Optimistic. Impatient with pretense. Confident that people can chart their own course.
112	That background may lack the polish of Washington. Then again, I don't have a lot of things that come with
113	I don't have enemies to fight. And I have no stake in the bitter arguments of the last few years. I want to change the tone of Washington to one of civility and respect.
114	The largest lesson I learned in Midland still guides me as governor ... Everyone, from immigrant to entrepreneur, has an equal claim on this country's promise.
115	So we improved our schools, dramatically, for children of every accent, of every background.
116	We moved people from welfare to work.
117	We strengthened our juvenile justice laws.
118	Our budgets have been balanced, with surpluses, and we cut taxes not only once, but twice.
119	We accomplished a lot.
120	I don't deserve all the credit, and don't attempt to take it. I worked with Republicans and Democrats to get
121	A bittersweet part of tonight is that someone is missing, the late Lt. Governor of Texas Bob Bullock.
122	Bob was a Democrat, a crusty veteran of Texas politics, and my great friend.
123	He worked by my side, endorsed my re-election, and I know he is with me in spirit in saying to those who would malign our state for political gain... Don't mess with Texas.
124	As governor, I've made difficult decisions, and stood by them under pressure. I've been where the buck stops -- in business and in government. I've been a chief executive who sets an agenda, sets big goals, and
125	I am proud of this record, and I'm prepared for the work ahead.
126	If you give me your trust, I will honor it ... Grant me a mandate, and I will use it... Give me the opportunity
127	And we need a leader to seize the opportunities of this new century -- the new cures of medicine, the amazing technologies that will drive our economy and keep the peace.
128	But our new economy must never forget the old, unfinished struggle for human dignity.
129	And here we face a challenge to the very heart and founding premise of our nation.
130	A couple of years ago, I visited a juvenile jail in Marlin, Texas, and talked with a group of young inmates. They were angry, wary kids. All had committed grownup crimes.
131	Yet when I looked in their eyes, I realized some of them were still little boys.
132	Toward the end of conversation, one young man, about 15, raised his hand and asked a haunting
133	He seemed to be asking, like many Americans who struggle ... "Is there hope for me? Do I have a chance?" And, frankly ... "Do you, a white man in a suit, really care what happens to me?"
134	A small voice, but it speaks for so many. Single moms struggling to feed the kids and pay the rent. Immigrants starting a hard life in a new world. Children without fathers in neighborhoods where gangs seem like friendship, where drugs promise peace, and where sex, sadly, seems like the closest thing to
135	And each of us must share in its promise, or that promise is diminished for all.

BushSpeech

	A
136	If that boy in Marlin believes he is trapped and worthless and hopeless -- if he believes his life has no value, then other lives have no value to him -- and we are ALL diminished.
137	When these problems aren't confronted, it builds a wall within our nation. On one side are wealth and
138	On the other side of the wall are poverty and prison, addiction and despair.
139	And, my fellow Americans, we must tear down that wall.
140	Big government is not the answer. But the alternative to bureaucracy is not indifference.
141	It is to put conservative values and conservative ideas into the thick of the fight for justice and
142	This is what I mean by compassionate conservatism. And on this ground we will govern our nation.
143	We will give low-income Americans tax credits to buy the private health insurance they need and deserve.
144	We will transform today's housing rental program to help hundreds of thousands of low-income families find stability and dignity in a home of their own.
145	And, in the next bold step of welfare reform, we will support the heroic work of homeless shelters and hospices, food pantries and crisis pregnancy centers -- people reclaiming their communities block-by-block
146	I think of Mary Jo Copeland, whose ministry called "Sharing and Caring Hands" serves 1,000 meals a week in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Each day, Mary Jo washes the feet of the homeless, then sends them off with
147	Look after your feet, she tells them "They must carry you a long way in this world, and then all the way
148	Government cannot do this work. It can feed the body, but it cannot reach the soul. Yet government can take the side of these groups, helping the helper, encouraging the inspired.
149	My administration will give taxpayers new incentives to donate to charity, encourage after-school programs that build character, and support mentoring groups that shape and save young lives.
150	We must give our children a spirit of moral courage, because their character is our destiny.
151	We must tell them, with clarity and confidence, that drugs and alcohol can destroy you, and bigotry
152	Our schools must support the ideals of parents, elevating character and abstinence from afterthoughts to
153	We must help protect our children, in our schools and streets, by finally and strictly enforcing our nation's
154	Most of all, we must teach our children the values that defeat violence. I will lead our nation toward a culture that values life -- the life of the elderly and the sick, the life of the young, and the life of the unborn. I know good people disagree on this issue, but surely we can agree on ways to value life by promoting adoption and parental notification, and when Congress sends me a bill against partial-birth
155	Behind every goal I have talked about tonight is a great hope for our country.
156	A hundred years from now, this must not be remembered as an age rich in possessions and poor in ideals.
157	Instead, we must usher in an era of responsibility.
158	My generation tested limits -- and our country, in some ways, is better for it.
159	Women are now treated more equally. Racial progress has been steady, if still too slow. We are learning to protect the natural world around us. We will continue this progress, and we will not turn back.
160	At times, we lost our way. But we are coming home.
161	So many of us held our first child, and saw a better self reflected in her eyes.
162	And in that family love, many have found the sign and symbol of an even greater love, and have been
163	We have discovered that who we are is more important than what we have. And we know we must renew
164	This is the vision of America's founders.
165	They never saw our nation's greatness in rising wealth or advancing armies, but in small, unnumbered acts
166	Their highest hope, as Robert Frost described it, was "to occupy the land with character."
167	And that, 13 generations later, is still our goal ... to occupy the land with character.
168	In a responsibility era, each of us has important tasks -- work that only we can do.

BushSpeech

A	
169	Each of us is responsible ... to love and guide our children, and help a neighbor in need.
170	Synagogues, churches and mosques are responsible ... not only to worship but to serve.
171	Corporations are responsible ... to treat their workers fairly, and leave the air and waters clean.
172	Our nation's leaders are responsible ... to confront problems, not pass them on to others.
173	And to lead this nation to a responsibility era, a president himself must be responsible.
174	And so, when I put my hand on the Bible, I will swear to not only uphold the laws of our land, I will swear to uphold the honor and dignity of the office to which I have been elected, so help me God.
175	I believe the presidency -- the final point of decision in the American government -- was made for great
176	It is the office of Lincoln's conscience and Teddy Roosevelt's energy and Harry Truman's integrity and
177	For me, gaining this office is not the ambition of a lifetime, but it IS the opportunity of a lifetime.
178	And I will make the most of it. I believe great decisions are made with care, made with conviction, not
179	I do not need to take your pulse before I know my own mind. I do not reinvent myself at every turn. I am not running in borrowed clothes. When I act, you will know my reasons ...When I speak, you will know my
180	I believe in tolerance, not in spite of my faith, but because of it.
181	I believe in a God who calls us, not to judge our neighbors, but to love them.
182	I believe in grace, because I have seen it ... In peace, because I have felt it ... In forgiveness, because I have
183	I believe true leadership is a process of addition, not an act of division. I will not attack a part of this country, because I want to lead the whole of it.
184	And I believe this will be a tough race, down to the wire.
185	Their war room is up and running ... but we are ready. Their attacks will be relentless ... but they will be answered. We are facing something familiar, but they are facing something new.
186	We are now the party of ideas and innovation ... The party of idealism and inclusion.
187	The party of a simple and powerful hope ...
188	My fellow citizens, we can begin again. After all of the shouting, and all of the scandal. After all of the bitterness and broken faith. We can begin again.
189	The wait has been long, but it won't be long now.
190	A prosperous nation is ready to renew its purpose and unite behind great goals ... and it won't be long
191	Our nation must renew the hopes of that boy I talked with in jail, and so many like him... and it won't be
192	Our country is ready for high standards and new leaders ... and it won't be long now.
193	An era of tarnished ideals is giving way to a responsibility era ... and it won't be long now.
194	I know how serious the task is before me.
195	I know the presidency is an office that turns pride into prayer.
196	But I am eager to start on the work ahead.
197	And I believe America is ready for a new beginning.
198	My friend, the artist Tom Lea of El Paso, captured the way I feel about our great land.
199	He and his wife, he said, "live on the east side of the mountain ...
200	It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side.
201	It is the side to see the day that is coming ... not the side to see the day that is gone."
202	Americans live on the sunrise side of mountain.
203	The night is passing.
204	And we are ready for the day to come.
205	Thank you. And God bless you.